Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 ABF-01 /062 W

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FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1935
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 6854

SECRETUSNATO 1109

E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: MPOL, NATO

SUBJECT: REVISION TO FY-78 US DEFENSE BUDGET

REF: STATE 039047 (DTG 202221Z FEB 77)

- 1. WE HAVE HAD NUMEROUS INQUIRIES AT THE WORKING LEVEL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF AND VARIOUS DELEGATIONS CONCERNING THE EFFECT ON US FORCES FOR NATO OF RECENT REVISIONS TO THE US DEFENSE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1978. THIS SUBJECT WAS ALSO RAISED AT MARCH 1 PERMREPS' LUNCH (SEPTEL). TO DATE, SYG LUNS HAS NOT SHARED THE CONTENTS OF HIS LETTER FROM SECRETARY VANCE (REFTEL) WITH OTHER PERMREPS OR EVEN WITH HIS ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL ON THE DEFENSE SIDE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO ASK HIM TO DO SO, IF ONLY TO FOCUS OFFICAIL ATTENTION THROUGHOUT THE ALLIANCE ON FACTS WHICH ARE ALREADY IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.
- 2. FOR NUMEROUS REASONS THERE IS NO, REPEAT NO, NECESSITY FOR THE US TO "CONSULT" ON THE REDUCTIONS PROPOSED BY THE CARTER AMENDMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 1978 BUDGET. WE NOTE THAT EVEN WITH THE REDUCTIONS, OUTLAYS WILL RISE BY 11.6 SECRET

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PERCENT IN MONETARY TERMS OVER FY-77, WHICH IS 0.3 PER CENT GREATER THAN THE FIGURE DECLARED TO NATO LAST FALL. DESPITE THIS, THERE ARE PROGRAM CHANGES OF INTEREST TO THE ALLIANCE (E.G., INCREASES IN PREPOSITIONED STOCKS, ACCELERERATION OF AIRCRAFT SHELTER CONSTRUCTION, CANCELLATION OF NON-NUCLEAR LANCE). WE BELIEVE CIRCULATION BY LUNS OF THE SECRETARY'S LETTER TO OTHER PERMREPS AND THE NMAS WOULD CLEAR THE AIR AND OBVIATE THE NECESSITY FOR ANY TYPE OF FORMAL CONSULTATIONS.

- 3. ACCORDINGLY, WE PROPOSE TO SUGGEST TO LUNS THAT HE CIRCULATE HIS LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY, AND ANY RESPONSE HE HAS MADE OR PLANS TO MAKE TO IT, AS A PO FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE ALLIANCE.
- 4. ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON GUIDANCE BY OOB, MARCH 7. STRAUSZ-HUPE

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 30-Aug-1999 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a **Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED**

Concepts: n/a

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 02-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 22 May 2009

Disposition Event: Disposition Leent.
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO01109

Document Source: ADS Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: 11652 GDS

Errors: n/a **Expiration:** Film Number: n/a Format: TEL From: NATO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197703110/baaabcav.tel

Line Count: 65 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes: Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Message ID: a59601b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2 Previous Channel Indicators: Previous Chamier initiation:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 039047 (DTG 202221Z FEB 77)

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 26-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier: Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2961439 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: REVISION TO FY-78 US DEFENSE BUDGET

TAGS: MPOL, NATO
To: STATE SECDEF MULTIPLE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a59601b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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